

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

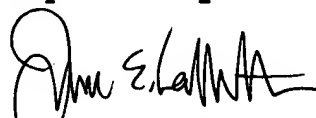
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Final Rejection that claims 4 and 7 are allowed.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 have been cancelled to obviate the rejections of claims 5, 6, 8, and 9, under 35 USC §102(b), and place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: August 18, 2004
JEL/DWW/att

Attorney Docket No. JEL 30769
STEVENS DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 850
P.O. Box 34387
Washington, D.C. 20043-4387
Telephone: (202) 785-0100
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200